



REV. W. MOORE SCOTT, PASTOR.

A native of Arkansas. Graduated with A.B. from Arkansas College in 1889; with B.D. in 1896 from Southwestern Presbyterian University. Has held pastorates in Smyrna, Nashville and Memphis. He entered upon his present work Jan. 1st 1908.

THE FIRST CHURCH OF SAVANNAH.

On May 17, 1827, the First Presbyterian Church, of Savannah, was organized. On May 20, 1909, approximately on its eighty-second anniversary, General Assembly, with its Calvin Celebration, will convene in that church.

Its first edifice was completed June 1, 1834, on the south side of Broughton street, near Barnard. Prior to this, the congregation had worshipped in Lyceum Hall, at the corner of Bull and Broughton streets. The present church building is located at the corner of Bull and Taylor streets. At the dedication service (June 9, 1872) the preacher was the Rev. Dr. B. M. Palmer, of New Orleans, who for one year had served this church as pastor. In 1896, the building was damaged by storm, but it was soon repaired. Facing Monterey Square and only two squares from Forsyth Park, it occupies a delightful location. Extensive repairs and embellishments and the introduction of electric lights have beautified the interior and exterior of the church.

Its spiritual aspect is encouraging. With a membership of 350, the additions during the past year have been 111, or about thirty per cent. During the year there have been added to the session four new elders and five members of the diaconate.

Concerning the several beloved pastors who have served this church, we may speak next week.

THE CARE OF ALL THE CHURCHES.

"Besides those things that are without," wrote the great apostle, perils of many kinds, in labor and travail, "there is that which presseth upon me daily, anxiety for all the churches." And that apostolic responsibility is the burden resting upon the General Assembly. It "represents in one body all the churches," and "constitutes the bond of union, peace and correspondence among all its congregations and courts." Expressing the unity of the religious life of all the parts, upon it rests the obligation to care for that religious life, and send back to the churches wise counsel, faithful direction and all gracious influences.

All the counsel and direction which the Assembly can give must be according to the Word of God, as interpreted by the standards in which is the constitution of the Church. Within the limits so defined the people themselves, in all the churches must be regarded. The Assembly comes from all these scattered churches, exists and serves for them, and must act in accordance with their life, their character and wishes. While it leads, it leads where the churches and the people would have it to go. This is the safe conservatism of the Assembly in its care of all the churches.

Amendments to the Standards of Doctrine and Polity may well be regarded with great caution, and be postponed in favor of matters of importance in the work of the Church. A light regard for established standards and a restless desire for change with large expectations of good results if changes be made, will always be found among a few. But constant agitation for changes creates a want of confidence and weakens the hold of the Church upon its constituents.

The relations of the Church to other churches must always be relations of amity and brotherly love, and the unity of the Spirit find expression in cordial co-operation in extension of the kingdom of Christ at home and abroad. But such fraternal regard and kindly working together should not be at the expense of self-respect and the safe-guarding of our own harmony and our own witness for truth. Perpetual agitation of union and federation schemes tends to the destruction of unity, both within and without.

It is a happy thing that just now our Church is not seriously disturbed as to union schemes or Confessional amendment. Both the amendments sent down to the Presbyteries have been negatived with some decision. And a period of peace is producing fruits, large and precious. The great mission of the Church of Christ to give the Gospel to the world, is having a more extensive and hearty support than it has ever had. Great will be the thanksgiving to God when the Assembly and the churches hear what our churches have done for our mission work. With a large increase in our contributions to Foreign missions, it will be asked with concern whether this has been at the cost of our other agencies of Church work. All will rejoice if it be shown that the same spirit of consecration has sustained well all the beneficent operations at home.

Now that our laymen have been awakened and heartily enlisted in behalf of our foreign field, may we not hope that men and women alike may be stirred